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28 May '16

Dearest Mother

Sunday afternoon once again so I must make a start at my weekly letter.

It is now 4:00 PM so I picture you all at Memorial Church listening to Mr. Harwood. Wonder if I am right? Another beautiful day here I think we are about 5 weeks ahead of Canada as far as the season goes (as I have a very slight touch of my old complaint such as I usually experienced about 1st July in Canada but escaped last year. Don't worry as it really does not bother me and it is now almost gone. I hear the almost continual "hum" of aircraft as I sit here as there is an aerodrome very close and some machines are going up or coming down, or experimenting, all the time. It sounds very like the hum one hears near a running dynamo.

I called on Wood yesterday to discuss Father's interesting letters of May 7th (Lakewood) and 8th which I will try and answer by this mail, and he showed me a letter from your Mother dear and also one from Estelle about Alice and Elaine getting Father on the floor

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and tickling him which amused me
 very much. He returned yours of
 Thursday noon (May 1st) and Estelle's of
 May 3rd both of which I think I have
 already acknowledged. I showed him
 Alice's interesting letter of May 8th about
 Bishop's untimely visit and G. Ingram's
 new car. You will have to choke the
 farmer off if he reverts to the role
 he used to occupy in our class at
 A.M.C. of "equit Bishop". I also have
 to thank you Mather dear for two
 bundles of papers, one containing
 Memorial Church report with Wood's
 my names followed by Reasons!!!

Quite a few of these names are
not in France. I am sorry not to
 see your name in the list of subscribers
 as I fully intended to keep up my
 envelope #222 and if I had done so
 the deficit would not have been as
 great. However I think it is a
 very creditable report under the
 circumstances.

You can tell Aunt Elizabeth I am
 munching a little of her maple sugar
 as I write. I suppose she has
 moved by this time and I hope will
 be comfortable in her new quarters

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I have already told you how much all the Easter boxes were appreciated. They have lasted in some ways until now.

I still have some ginger that Sarah sent in Edna's box & Aunt Elizabeth's socks are ideal for this weather. I have them on now. I suppose I should write Trixie and thank her for being your medium; I can get her address from Wood no doubt.

I hope that Leonard has become accustomed to new food by now - as I am sure dear little Stella has her hands full. Nestlé's used to my recollection a baby food. I think I can remember feeding some of the "new mothers" on it in their own infancy.

I am so glad Father enjoyed his trip to Ottawa & Montreal. His letter is certainly most cheerful and Wood and I were much encouraged by it. I hope he won't have too many labor troubles this summer. I can picture Alice revelling in two real babies.

I felt it would not be wise for you to plan coming across this summer as we hear on all sides that leave is to be cancelled very soon for some little time. I think it would be better to wait

until the early fall when it may ²⁸ be ^{May}
over again. This is merely my own
idea about it but it would be too bad
to get over and then find we could not
get across the Channel even when our
turn comes. Mc Ewen is still over
and will not be back until the end of
the week. I miss him very much to
confer with, especially under the
present circumstances. I have no word
whatever of how things will shape but
must be patient. Wood is in somewhat
a similar situation also. I hope you
will do all in your power to get
Father out at his golf time a week
during the nice weather. How funny it
seems to think of it although I have seen
a few officers enthusiasts trying to
play a little behind the lines. Well
also I will try and write her in
the middle of the week and Elaine
also. I got my first letter from
Sarah on Friday (although it was not
the first one she had written; practically
two weeks after she landed, in fact
it came back on the same boat the
New York. It is possible that she
has paid you a visit ere this and
you likely know more of her plans

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at the present moment than I do. I must now go over a very uneventful week.

Monday 22nd May Dinsley up at noon stables with some orders about frontier control on which I will have to send a troop in the morning. A large number of men very sick from their inoculation yesterday. It seems to make them sick at the stomach. McEwen attended at F.G.C.M. of which our friend Eaton of the A.S.C. (once in London) was president. Received a letter confirming the reimbursement of my pay and assuring me of strict collaboration in future which I was very glad to get.

McEwen finished much to his relief as he was afraid he might have to remain over tomorrow and miss his leave for that day. As it was he packed up and started for rail head at 3.30 AM on

Tuesday 23rd May. Up for stables in McEwen's absence. Inspected control post party under Campbell and saw them off. Greatly pleased with well I have dug as a couple good water for cooking and horses right in the field in which latter are

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picketed. It is better water too than
we have had anywhere. It is going
to be quite a problem over here this
summer especially in the areas close
to the front. Some of 3rd Div Cav called
and we chatted things over although
we are rival ~~off~~ claimants for the
2nd in command as things stand at
present. We are both playing the game
however as I have merely laid the
facts of my claim before the proper
authority and will bid by results. Was
sorting over old correspondence when
Wood came in after lunch and stayed
a couple of hours. He is back at his
waggon lines for a day or two. He looks
well and is quite sun burnt. Tipton
of 1st Div Cav. happened to call while
he was with me and I was fortunately
able to give them both a cigar and
a drink, as it was a very warm
day. Tried to get Wood to remain but
he had asked somebody in to dinner
and had to get back. Our second
batch of men were inoculated so
will still have another sick crowd
tomorrow. Still very warm. Read
and retired early. Am bothered with
some kind of an itch or bite

and thought a few days ago I was ³⁸ May
lousy and they blanked the bed I am
sleeping on (but not in) and had Markham
go all through my sleeping bag & blankets
but nothing discoloured. It seems better
now and trust it will disappear during
the next few days. I get a bath every
day too.

Wednesday 24th May as I have already
written I could not help thinking of a
year ago. Elmsley called which I was
in the orderly room and we had quite
a chat. He seems a very decent chap
in every way but is not entitled to the
job in my humble opinion. Another
beautiful day and a little cooler.
Some farmers are cutting hay already.
Grain is in full head in some
fields and must be four to five feet
high. Hops are ten feet up their
poles or mires. I have two beautiful
deep crimson roses on my table.
I have never smelt any sudbur.
Letters from Father and Alice. Walked
up to 3rd in P.M. to call on Smith
but he was out so after chatting to
some of his officers returned. Heard
that Campbell was to be relieved tomorrow
which will bring him back again.
Read and wrote in evening.

Thursday 25th May 8 Rev. at 4.30 ^{28th May} as we
are to supply our first digging party at 7.15.
It is no hardship as I thought now over
here at 3.00 and the sun visible about
3.30. We all go to bed early in any case.
Inspected the parade, I helped to then
work, picket the horses, and take lunch
and a feed with them. Made out a
parade state and then wrote Father and
Sarah to catch Canadian mail at 10.00 AM
Rode down to Divisional HQs in the
afternoon to see about some claims
and had a chat with Homer Dixon. Heard
that our Corps Commander is to be
replaced and will become Inspector
General of Canadian Forces in England.
Rode up to one of our old billets to see
about an extortion ~~claim~~ claim of 695 Francs
preferred against us. These Belgians
are very crooked and will do anything
to get a few francs and have no
conscience about dealing with the
British authorities. We are far too
lenient with them. Rather late getting
home and on the way back saw 5 ~~poor~~
devils laid out on the road as the
result of a bombing accident. Did
not stop so don't know if any were killed
but they were horribly messed up

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a doctor and assistants were there so I could not help and there are always enough of "curians". The working party got back about 6:00 pretty well tired but they had to do stables all the same.

Friday 26th May Another 4:30 AM start to get working party off. They have to ride about 7 miles. Elmsley called in morning. Still no ward. Started putting up a hut we have secured, but help very scarce as so few men in camp. First letter from Sarah, also long one from Father about 8" x 4.2" shells and 2 bundles of papers from Mother. Smith called in P.M. and young Dilger in the evening. He was with The Call in "C" Squadron and would like to get with us now if he can. He has been with the artillery recently.

Saturday 27 May. After cleaning up some office work I started out to see road about Father's letter. It must be nearly a 10 mile ride from here but partly along a very historic road. I did not get there until noon and then had to hunt around for this "hole in ground". I finally found it in a house with no roof but a big numbered front door. He and Wood were sleeping

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in the cellar but living in the ¹⁰larder ~~store~~ which was not much knocked about. Wood was out in front and after lunch I decided to go up and meet him and was just starting out with a guide when I met him and Harry Greerles coming back with "tin hats" on. They looked like two Chinamen. Their front has been very quilted and I hope it will remain so. We had a nice chat and eat in the sun watching some air craft. They gave me tea at 4.30 and I started back. Where I had left my horses, I found that the R.C.A. occupied the barn where they were and going in found little Claude Hill reading a paper in the pantry. I hit him on the back and he jumped up as if he were going to take my head off supposing that it was one of his officers. I congratulated on his new command and he gave me two drinks in honor of the occasion. He particularly wanted to be remembered to everybody at home and wondered if Father was keeping his golf up. My call made me very late getting back but it was a beautiful evening for a ride. I met all the "helms" on the way out. Some in London motor buses, & some on foot not to speak

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numerous ration parties and working parties. You may rest assured they went all some back the way they went out. No mail when I got home and was naturally a little disappointed. Bed early and slept well.

Sunday 28 May not observed, as a working party required the same as yesterday and a 4.30 AM start necessary in consequence. Inspected the party at 7.00 and spent the morning writing up some suggestions about the reorganization which Elmsley asked me for. Smith called and we mutually condoned over the delay. No letters at noon which was disappointing. Read for a little while as the papers had come and then spent the afternoon writing this. Capt Thompson of 1st is acting as paymaster and paid at 6.00 P.M. Remaining to dinner.

McEwen sent over half a dozen new records some of which were very beautiful. Spencer is acting as Regimental Quartermaster for the time being.

Monday 29th May Another early start but did not get up for breakfast as had arranged for my weekly hot bath. Have just inspected the parade and will now draw to a close (8.30 AM)

We all have a 6.30 breakfast these days and I believe that they are going to gradually advance the clock one hour over here to conform with the French change. They made the jump a week ago in England and I consider it an excellent move in every way, as daylight seems unlimited over here just at present.

It is quite warm again today but bright and clear and my slight touch of hay fever seems better.

Tell Estelle to ask James to send me the latest Militia list at first opportunity, as it is very useful for reference.

Will close now - dearest Mother with very much love. Don't think that I am discouraging your coming over but it would be disappointing if we could not get across. The same applies to Sarah and I hope she will not hurry back. Kiss both the nephews for me also Alice & their Mothers
 very much love by you & father
 your devoted son
 J.H.

P.S. 12 pages is a pretty long letter. I won't always promise to do as well.
 J.H.